

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 to 23 canceled

24. (New) A lock assembly for a mobile part of a vehicle body such as a hatch or door, the lock assembly comprising
- a lock for securing the mobile part in a closed position with respect to a stationary part of the vehicle body;
 - a lock cylinder and a key for insertion in the lock cylinder, wherein, when turned in an emergency situation, the key rotates the lock cylinder and moves the lock between an unlocking position and a locking position;
 - a handle mounted on the mobile part, wherein the handle is configured for pivoting in a plane extending perpendicularly to the vehicle body;
 - the handle being movable between a closed position in which the handle is flush with the vehicle body and the lock cylinder is protected and an outwardly-pivoted position in which the handle can be gripped manually for opening the mobile part;
 - the lock cylinder being accessible for the key when the lock cylinder is in the outwardly-pivoted position and the key can be actuated by rotation in an emergency situation

for shifting the lock between the locking position and the unlocking position;

- the lock cylinder being mounted on a rear surface of the handle and forming together with the handle a combination, the combination being a structural unit movable between the closed position and the outwardly-pivoted position;

- the lock cylinder pointing toward an interior of the mobile part when the combination is in the closed position;

- a rotating coupler with a rotating coupler element configured to rotate along with the lock cylinder when the lock cylinder is turned by the key, the rotating coupler element being mounted on the combination;

- a stationary opposing element of the rotating coupler being mounted on a defined location on the mobile part, wherein the stationary opposing element acts on the lock;

- in the coupling position of the combination, the stationary opposing element being uncoupled from the rotating coupler element, wherein, in the outwardly-pivoted position of the combination, the stationary opposing element is in rotating engagement with the rotating coupler element;

- the stationary opposing element of the rotating coupler being arranged in the same vertical plane as the plane in which the rotating coupler element of the combination moves during a coupling movement of the combination; and

- a coupling point of the rotating coupler element engaging during a last phase of the outward-pivoting movement of the combination with an opposing coupling point of the opposing element.

25. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 24, wherein the lock cylinder is integrated into material of the handle of the combination.
26. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 24, wherein the axis of the lock cylinder is mounted in the perpendicular plane as the plane in which the pivoting movement of the combination takes place.
27. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 24, wherein a cylinder housing of the lock cylinder is an integral part of the handle of the combination.
28. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 24, wherein the handle is comprised of at least one of a flat plate and an arched plate, and the axis of the lock cylinder extends essentially parallel to the plane of the plate.

29. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 24, wherein the handle is comprised of a two-layer plate comprising a rear base plate provided with the bearing means for the pivoting movement of the combination and a decorative plate on a visible side.
30. The lock assembly according to Claim 29, wherein the handle of the combination comprises a company emblem on a visible side.
31. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 24, wherein a protective sleeve is mounted on a rear surface of the handle;
- the sleeve surrounding the outside of the coupling element and traveling with the coupling element; and
 - the protective sleeve accommodating at least a coupling point of the stationary opposing element during every phase of the pivoting movement and thereby protecting the lock against manipulating attempts.
32. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 31, wherein the stationary opposing element simultaneously is a guide means

for the protective sleeve during the pivoting movement of the combination.

33. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 31, wherein the protective sleeve is an integral part of the handle of the combination.
34. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 31, further comprising a housing, the handle being pivotable around an axis extending transversely of the housing;
- the handle, when in the closed position, closing off an opening in the housing and forming together with the housing a structural unit, the structural unit being attachable as a whole to the mobile part of the vehicle body;
 - the stationary opposing element being rotatably supported at a defined point in a housing wall, wherein the coupling point of the opposing coupler element points into the interior of the housing and toward the combination;
 - a driver connected nonrotatably on an outside surface of the housing to the opposing coupler element, wherein the driver is connected to the lock through an additional link chain.

35. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 31, further comprising a stop on the handle and a counterstop on the housing;
- the movable stop, when in the outwardly-pivoted position, making contact with the stationary opposing counterstop and thereby limiting an outward pivot angle;
 - the stop being formed by a section of the protective sleeve facing into the direction of the pivoting movement.
36. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 34, the housing wall having a step facing the interior of the housing;
- a tread of the step facing the stationary opposing element, the step serving as a counterstop and cooperating with the protective sleeve, and limiting the outwardly-pivoted position of the combination.
37. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 36, wherein the stop for the closed position of the combination is comprised of a riser of the step in the housing, wherein a surface of the riser faces a housing opening.
38. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 37, wherein the riser comprises an elastic buffer.

39. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 31, wherein the pivot axis of the combination comprises two separate axle pins,
- the axle pins being introduced from opposite outside surfaces to pass through two bores in the housing and extend into two blind holes in the combination.
40. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 39, wherein, after the axle pins have been installed, a gap exists between facing ends of the pins, wherein the lock cylinder is arranged in the gap.
41. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 39, wherein the cylinder axis of the lock cylinder extends perpendicularly of the pivot axis and is set back into the interior of the housing from the pivot axis.
42. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 39, wherein the axle pins are comprised of two cap screws extending through two bearing bushes mounted in the two housing bores and anchored in two threaded holes in the combination.
43. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 31, further comprising a working arm mounted on the outside surface of

the housing, the working arm being connected nonrotatably to the combination and pivoting with the combination during pivoting movement thereof; wherein the working arm acts on other functional parts.

44. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 43, wherein the nonrotatable connection between the working arm and the combination is effected by one of the screws forming the pivot axis.
45. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 43, wherein the working arm is seated nonrotatably in one of the bearing bushes for forming an arm-bush unit, and
 - the arm-bush unit is anchored in the combination by a screw which extends through the bearing bushing.
46. (New) The lock assembly according to Claim 24, comprising a freewheel coupling between the lock cylinder and the rotating coupler element, wherein the coupling is mounted so as to move concomitantly with the combination,
 - wherein the freewheel coupling disconnects the nonrotatable connection between the lock cylinder and the rotating coupler element when the lock cylinder is turned by force.